

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
JULY 26, 2026
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
Phone: 780 963-4745 Email: stonyuc@telus.net
Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD
on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

INTROIT - Special Music by the Sacred Strings: “Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

Words and music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs. Words and music copyright © 1982 by Whole Armour and Full Armor Publishing Companies. All rights reserved. One License #A-718663.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Hebrews 10:19-22*

GATHERING PRAYER *Based on Psalm 105:1-11*

GATHERING HYMN: VU #220 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Verse 1: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near, joining in glad adoration.

Verse 2: Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been met by God’s gracious ordaining?

Verse 3: Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who out of love will befriend us.

Verse 4: Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God’s people again: gladly with praise we adore him.

Words: Joachim Neander 1680. English trans. Catherine Winkworth 1863, et al, alt. Music: Stralsund Gesangbuch 1665 Public Domain.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CONCERNS AND JOYS

PRAYERS OF CONCERNS AND JOYS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
 Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES
SPECIAL MUSIC by the Sacred Strings "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

Words: Henry van Dyke 1907, alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824 Public Domain.

THEME TIME**HYMN: MV #138 "My Love Colours Outside the Lines"**

Verse 1: My love colours outside the lines,
 Exploring paths that few could ever find;
 And takes me into places where I've never been before,
 And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Verse 2: My Lord colours outside the lines,
 Turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
 And takes me into places where I've never been before
 And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

BRIDGE: We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
 Body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
 And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
 And realize there are worlds outside the lines.

Verse 3: My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
 Tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
 I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
 Throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

BRIDGE

Verse 4: My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
 Tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
 I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
 Throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READINGS: Readers: Meredith Adams and Garry Scheuerman

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A RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 105 Part One VU page 828

Make Known what God Has Done

Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Give thanks and call on God's name. make known to the nations what God has done.

Sing, O sing the songs of praise; tell of all God's wonderful deeds.

Exult in God's holy name:

Let those who seek God be joyful in heart.

Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Turn for help to the One who is your strength; seek God's presence continually.

Remember the marvels the Most High has done, the wonders and judgements God has given,

O children of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,

O offspring of Israel, chosen of God.

Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

You are the eternal God,

Your justice reaches every corner of the earth.

You are ever mindful of your covenant, the promise you gave to a thousand generations,

The covenant you made with Sarah and Abraham, the oath you gave to Isaac.

You confirmed it for Jacob as binding. To Israel your everlasting covenant you declared,

"To you I give the land of Canaan, as your appointed inheritance."

Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

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THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Jesus Tells Five Parables

REFLECTION: "Stories Help Us Understand" by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: (Seated) VU #713 "I See a New Heaven"

REFRAIN:

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,

Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes to all people who abide in the land.

Verse 1: There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,

Yielding her fruit, firm in her root, the Tree of Life will be.

REFRAIN: I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,

Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes to all people who abide in the land.

Verse 2: There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,

Body and soul, struggling but whole like flowers after the rain.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light, reveals the promise of love.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: There, there where we work with love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust to build a promised new land.

REFRAIN

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY: “Grace at the Gate”

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HYMN: MV #79 “Spirit, Open My Heart”

REFRAIN:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.

Verse 1: God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to Your grace I now surrender.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring You glory.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

REFRAIN

Words by Ruth Duck, 1994; Music – trad. Irish melody. Arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997. Copyright: © 1996, 1997 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: Doxology (Tune VU #541)
Praise God, the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us kin in unity
to love and set each other free.

Posted on <https://www.hillsidemedford.org/transforming-love/doxology> Written by Mary Luti. Used with permission.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (Unison)

O God,
Jesus taught that where our treasure is,
there will our hearts be also.

In this hour, we come bringing our treasures—
all that we have and all that we are.
We come seeking your treasure—
treasure that does not fade, decay, or disappoint.
Share with us the treasure of heaven,
that we may boldly share it with others. Amen.

Written by Rev. Dr. Barb Hedges-Goettl, PC(USA) pastor and liturgical scholar. Posted on <https://bjhlog.wordpress.com/>
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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

SPECIAL MUSIC by the Sacred Strings: “Keep on the Sunny Side”

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COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #454 “May God Who Creates You”

**May God who creates you, give you light; may God who sustains you, make you wise;
may God who protects you, give you joy; may God who surrounds you, give you peace.**

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MUSICAL POSTLUDE

YOUR OFFERING: Monetary gifts (cash or cheque) may be placed in one of the boxes next to the doors in the sanctuary; dropped off at the church during office hours; mailed to Stony Plain United Church, Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4; set up through PAR (pre-authorized remittance); or, by e-transfer to stewards@stonyplainunitedchurch.com. If you need more information, or an envelope number, please contact Lloyd Doige at 780 975-6021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS JULY 26, 2026

NEW

EDMONTON PRIDE PARADE SAT. AUG 22: The Northern Spirit Affirm Committee is hosting an entry in the Edmonton Pride Parade and inviting Affirming congregations and ministries, and all United Church members and friends who are interested, to walk together. Every participant needs to be registered. Parade starts at 1pm (line up begins at 11:30.) If you want to walk with us in the Edmonton Pride Parade on August 22nd register here: [NS Affirm Parade Registration Link](#)

REMINDERS

WED AUG 5 WHISPERING WATERS SERVICE 7:15 PM: We will go to Whispering Waters on Wed. Aug 5 at 7:15 pm for our monthly communion service. If you'd like to help, please contact Linda Maki. Everyone is welcome!

SAT. AUG 15, 2026 MEWASSIN 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: You are joyfully invited to join us in celebrating **100 years** of Ministry at Mewassin United Church on Saturday, August 15 starting at 1 pm. There will be a short service at 1 pm followed by Pig Roast and Brisket with all the trimmings and Games for the kids. This is a perfect time to connect with our Church Family, friends

and community members as we come together to celebrate and to honour God's faithfulness over the years.

PASSING ON YOUR CONCERNS: If you know of anyone who would like a visit or a card, please contact the Care Committee, Rev. Deborah or the Church Office (780 963-4745) or email stonyuc@telus.net.

MEWASSIN SUMMER SERVICES SCHEDULE

July 5 to Aug 2 inclusive: **No Services** (Summer Break);
 Sun. Aug 9 **Regular Service**;
 Sat. Aug 15: **100th Anniversary Service**;
 Sun. Aug 16 **No Service**;
 Sun. Aug 23 **Regular (Communion) Service**;
 Aug 30 **No Service** (Camping Weekend)

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Sun. July 26, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN
Sun. Aug. 2, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. SP Presider Cheryl Watson NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN
Sun. Aug 9, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW
<u>SAT AUG 15, 2026</u>	1 pm Special Service at Mewassin to celebrate 100 years of Ministry
Sun. Aug 16, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. SP Presider Brenda Cleland NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN
Sun. Aug 23, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW. SP Paper Bag Communion Service; regular service at Mewassin.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: No practices until Sept 2 or 9 unless otherwise notified
 Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

July 5 to Aug 2 inclusive – No Services at Mewassin (Summer Break)
 Wed. Aug 5 7:15 pm Whispering Waters Service
 Sat. Aug. 15 MEWASSIN 100th Anniversary Service
 Sun. Aug 16 NO SERVICE AT MEWASSIN
 Fri. Aug 28 to Sun. Aug 30 MEWASSIN Camp out at Entwistle RV Campground
 Sun. Aug. 30 NO SERVICE AT MEWASSIN
 Sat. Sept 26 MEWASSIN Bottle Drive